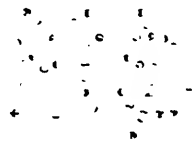


HISTORICAL SKETCHES  
OF  
FRANKLIN COUNTY  
AND  
ITS SEVERAL TOWNS  
WITH MANY  
SHORT BIOGRAPHIES

BY  
FREDERICK J. SEAVER  
MALONE, NEW YORK



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*State Senators*

Year of appointment or election	Name	Politics	Residence
1822.....	David Erwin.....	Republican.....	Constable
1843.....	Sidney Lawrence.....	Democratic.....	Moirs
1851.....	Henry B. Smith.....	Democratic.....	Chateaugay
1857.....	William A. Wheeler.....	Republican.....	Malone
1863.....	Albert Hobbs.....	Republican.....	Malone
1871-73.....	Wells S. Dickinson.....	Republican.....	Bangor
1883.....	John I. Gilbert.....	Republican.....	Malone
1891.....	Frederick D. Kilburn.....	Republican.....	Malone
1908-10.....	William T. O'Neil*.....	Republican.....	Waverly
1910-12.....	Herbert P. Coats.....	Republican.....	Harrietstown
1914-16.....	N. Monroe Marshall.....	Republican.....	Malone

\* Died in office.

*Members of Assembly*

Until 1822 Franklin and Clinton counties comprised one Assembly district, during which time Franklin county furnished the member five times.

Year of appointment or election	Name	Politics	Residence
1809-11.....	Gates Hoyt.....	Republican.....	Chateaugay
1817.....	Gates Hoyt.....	Republican.....	Chateaugay
1818.....	Ebenezer Brownson.....	Federalist.....	Malone
1822.....	William Hogan.....	Republican.....	Hogansburgh
1823.....	George B. R. Gove.....	Clintonian-Federalist.....	Fort Covington
1824-25.....	Asa Hascall.....	Federalist.....	Malone
1826.....	James Campbell.....	Federalist.....	Fort Covington
1827-29.....	Luther Bradish.....	Anti-Masonic.....	Moirs
1830-31.....	James B. Spencer.....	Democratic.....	Fort Covington
1832-33.....	Jabez Parkhurst.....	Whig.....	Fort Covington
1834.....	Asa Hascall.....	Whig.....	Malone
1835-36-37.....	Luther Bradish.....	Whig.....	Moirs
1838.....	Asa Hascall.....	Whig.....	Malone
1839-40.....	John S. Eldredge.....	Whig.....	Hogansburgh
1841.....	Thomas R. Powell.....	Whig.....	Malone
1842.....	Joseph H. Jackson.....	Whig.....	Malone
1843.....	Francis D. Flanders.....	Democratic.....	Malone
1844.....	Hiram Horton.....	Whig.....	Malone
1845.....	Sidney Lawrence.....	Democratic.....	Moirs
1846.....	Joseph R. Flanders.....	Democratic.....	Malone
1847.....	Elos L. Winslow.....	Democratic.....	Malone
1848.....	George B. R. Gove.....	Whig.....	Fort Covington
1849-50.....	William A. Wheeler.....	Whig.....	Malone
1851-52.....	Darius W. Lawrence.....	Democratic.....	Moirs
1853.....	Andrew W. Ferguson.....	Democratic.....	Malone
1854.....	Edward Fitch.....	Whig.....	Malone
1855.....	Albert Hobbs.....	Knownothing.....	Malone
1856.....	George Mott.....	Democratic.....	Bangor
1857.....	Charles Russell.....	Knownothing-Republican.....	Moirs
1858.....	Martin L. Parlin.....	Knownothing-Republican.....	Malone
1859.....	Wells S. Dickinson.....	Republican.....	Bangor
1860.....	William Andrus.....	Republican.....	Malone
1861-63.....	Albert Andrus.....	Union party.....	Malone
1864-66.....	James W. Kimball.....	Republican.....	Fort Covington
1867-68.....	Edmund F. Sargent.....	Republican.....	Bangor
1869-71.....	James H. Pierce.....	Republican.....	Franklin
1872-74.....	John P. Badger.....	Republican.....	Burke
1875-77.....	John I. Gilbert.....	Republican.....	Malone
1878-80.....	William D. Brennan.....	Republican.....	Malone
1880.....	Samuel A. Beman.....	Republican.....	Malone
1881-84.....	William T. O'Neil.....	Republican.....	Waverly
1885-87.....	Floyd J. Hadley.....	Republican.....	Westville
1888-90.....	William C. Stevens.....	Republican.....	Malone
1891-93.....	Allen S. Matthews.....	Republican.....	Fort Covington
1894-98.....	Thomas A. Sears.....	Republican.....	Bombay
1899-1902.....	Halbert D. Stevens.....	Republican.....	Malone
1903-06.....	Charles R. Matthews.....	Republican.....	Bombay
1907-08.....	Harry H. Hawley.....	Republican.....	Malone
1909-14.....	Alexander Macdonald.....	Republican.....	Waverly
1915-17.....	Warren T. Thayer.....	Republican.....	Chateaugay

Luther Bradish was Speaker of the Assembly in 1838, the only Franklin county man who ever held the office. Indeed, this county has

ship," with Nathan Thurber, J. W. Merrill and Henry N. Cootey as trustees. For fourteen years previously, however, Methodist services had been held regularly in the school house hall by the pastor of the church at Brainardsville, and occasional services from a more remote time. Chateaugay Lake never had a church building until 1916, when one was erected by the Methodist Episcopal denomination. The site, on the lake road about half way between the hamlet and the Banner House, was given by Dr. E. E. Thurber. What the purpose was I do not know, but notwithstanding the incorporation in 1889, a further incorporation under the same title was had October 17, 1914.

St. Agnes Church of Chateaugay Lake (Roman Catholic) was incorporated in 1875, and for several years thereafter services were held more or less regularly in the school house hall by the priest in charge at Chateaugay. Before such incorporation mass had been said infrequently in private houses here, while latterly Catholic services have been at Brainardsville once a month, the priest at Chateaugay officiating. The society has no church building.

The first Congregational Society of Bellmont, at Bellmont Center, was incorporated in 1849 with John Richey, Joseph Williamson and Thomas McKenny as trustees, but no history of the life and activities of the organization is now traceable. Doubtless it was only a missionary charge, served probably by clergymen from Malone and Burke, and possibly sometimes from Chateaugay, and after a time was suffered to die. In 1868 the Presbyterian-Congregational Society of Bellmont was incorporated, and enrolled with the presbytery of Champlain in 1871. It had completed a church edifice in 1870. Rev. Andrew M. Millar served as pastor from 1867 to 1896. In later years services between pastorates were conducted by the Malone clergymen and by students from Magill College, Montreal. Prior to the erection of the church building services had been held first in the school house and then at the town house.

The history of Methodism in Bellmont before 1853 is meagre. We have authentic information that the town was in the Chateaugay circuit, but nothing fixing the neighborhood or neighborhoods where the early meetings were held. Rev. James Erwin, stationed at Chateaugay, was certainly in Bellmont in 1835, and it is only a reasonable presumption that his predecessor in the circuit had been there before him, and that his successors visited the town every year afterward until the conference appointed a resident clergyman to the charge in 1854. This appointee

1805 Methodist services were held more or less irregularly, but by whom until 1831 I have no knowledge except that Rev. James Erwin says that "Barzillia Willey, James Covel, Jonathan Newman, William Chase, Isaac Puffer and others carried the gospel through the valleys of St. Lawrence and Franklin counties from the year 1800." The first regular appointment by conference to Chateaugay was that of Rev. Lyndon King in 1831. Mr. King had been a Bangor man, a brother of John, Rev. Rufus and Harry King, and was the father of the late Alden King, of Malone, and of former Congressman William King, deceased, of Minnesota, and an uncle of William A. King and a great uncle of Floyd P. King, of Malone. At the time of his Chateaugay appointment he had just been ordained, having previously been a local preacher. He is said to have been a good sermonizer, and especially strong in exhortation; but after a time he became discontented, and went over to the Wesleyan Methodist denomination; then denounced all church organization; became a spiritualist; and by his own arrangement his funeral sermon was preached by a Universalist. In 1835 Mr. Erwin was sent to Chateaugay in charge, with Harris Kingsley, a local preacher, and John E. Stoddard as co-workers. According to Mr. Erwin, the latter had been in the district at that time for several years, which suggests that Chateaugay must have had Methodist ministrations for some time preceding the location there of Mr. King. Chateaugay circuit at this period had a circumference of four hundred miles — extending south into Bellmont, west to the Malone line, north over to Covey Hill and down to Lachine in Canada; it included Ellensburg also. It required six weeks for a rider to cover the territory, and thus, with three men working, each appointment averaged to be given a service once in two weeks. Mr. Erwin portrays then conditions vividly. A circuit rider's outfit included a horse, saddle, saddle-bags, and a book or two; and his dress was a white or drab fur hat, a cape and clothes made as plain as possible, forming a sort of uniform, so that "you could tell a Methodist preacher anywhere by his dress." His pay was a hundred dollars a year if he were single, with a hundred dollars additional if married, together with an allowance of sixteen dollars for each child under seven years of age, and of twenty-four dollars for each child between the ages of seven and fourteen years, and also of from twenty-five to fifty dollars for "table and feed." For his own first year in the ministry as a circuit rider Mr. Erwin received only fifty dollars, and even divided that amount with his associate rider, who was a man of family. A rider customarily traveled from fifteen to thirty miles on a Sunday, always on horseback, and spent from six to eight

hours in meetings. At the first service which Mr. Erwin held in Chateaugay, in a stone school house in the northern part of the town, people came from points fifty miles distant, and residents in the locality entertained them all — some single households caring for as many as twenty or thirty each, and even on this scale a part of the visitors had to be lodged three miles away and others in barns, so scant was the population. The occasion was a quarterly meeting; and for lovefeast on Sunday morning, the school house proving insufficient to hold the crowd, the barn of Amaziah Smith was used. The temperature was below zero, a carpenter's bench served for a pulpit, and seats were arranged in the stable, on the barn floor and in the haymow and even on the hayloft. Rev. Silas Comfort, the presiding elder, was present, accompanied by another nonresident preacher. Judge of the character of the country at this time from Mr. Erwin's statement that on his journeys in Canada he had to sleep in a straw bunk or in a trundlebed with the children, shivering from cold; fowls roosting overhead, and pigs and calves at his feet; and breakfasting with benumbed hands and wearing his overcoat and muffler. Mr. Erwin says, further, that in Canada wolves then traveled in large packs, while panthers and bears abounded, so that when moving to an appointment at night he had to be accompanied by a guard, carrying firebrands and rifles. Even under such conditions it was customary to proceed shouting hymns, and to stop now and then to hold a prayer meeting in the snow. The first church building erected by the Methodists in Chateaugay was not provided until 1854. The tornado two years later damaged it badly, but it was soon repaired, and answered the needs of the society until 1880, when it was demolished, and the present commodious and substantial brick building erected on the same site at a cost of about twelve thousand dollars. The church is free from debt, and has two hundred and thirty members. A Methodist Episcopal church was built at Earleville in 1891.

A Baptist church was formed under the leadership of Elder Isaac Sawyer in 1817, with eleven members, and there were never enough accessions to make the organization really strong. The erection of a church building was begun in 1820 on Depot street, two or three doors south of the Chateau, and it was eighteen years later when it was finished. The parish had originally included West Chateaugay, where, when Burke was erected in 1844, two-thirds of the members resided, and organized a new church — leaving the mother body weaker than ever. Nevertheless the Depot street church was deemed unsatisfactory

that effect, I believe that Preserved Ware, afterward well known and prominent in both Fort Covington and Bombay, was a descendant.

Daniel W. Church, who settled here in 1809, was a surveyor and mechanic, and built many of the mills in the northern part of the county. He removed to Morristown, and died there.

Still another estate, administered in 1815, is of interest because of the field of conjecture which it suggests. Elihu Spencer, a soldier in the United States army, was killed at the battle of Chrystler's Field in 1813, and upon the petition of his mother, Martha, a brother, Joseph, was appointed administrator. The record of proceedings affords no further information. Wonder is excited if the administrator named was the father of Joseph Spencer, whom so many of us knew as landlord of the old Spencer or American House. The assumption that he was is strengthened by the fact that in a later generation there was an Elihu Spencer. Still there is probably no record in existence which could resolve the question, nor any living person who knows.

Jonathan Ordway located in 1809 or 1810 on the east branch of Deer river, three or four miles southeast from the village, where he had large holdings. Besides engaging in farming and lumbering, he was a practicing physician. A grandson, Walter S. Ordway, is a merchant in Westville.

Thomas Erwin was here as early as 1813; perhaps earlier. He was the father of Rev. James Erwin, who was for half a century a Methodist circuit rider and pastor, and of whose activities extended mention is made in the sketches of Chateaugay, Malone and Westville. The elder Mr. Erwin was an elder of the Presbyterian church, and a close friend of "Father" Brunton, concerning whom more is told in connection with the history of churches in the town.

If there were others who were residents prior to the war, the number could not have been large, and information about them is not now procurable. To the war itself the place contributed comparatively few soldiers—possibly its close proximity to the border making residents there apprehensive that if they should identify themselves openly and actively with the American cause their families and property interests might suffer more seriously in the event of the place falling into British hands. As a matter of fact, French Mills was entered by enemy forces but twice during the war: the first time in November, 1812, for perhaps an hour, and the second in February, 1814, for perhaps two or three days. Except for two cases, at neither time were civilians or private property much molested. On the payrolls of the

several Franklin county companies which served during the conflict, on file in the adjutant-general's office at Albany, I find only these Fort Covington names: James Campbell and Seth Blanchard, sergeants; Alpheus Chapman, Silas Cushman, Arthur McMillan, John S. Payne, Allen Danforth, Marcus Harriman, Samuel H. Payne, James B. Spencer, Silas Ware, Joseph Spencer, Ezekiel Blanchard, Alpheus Ellsworth (spelled Exworth), and Noble Sexton. The last named had been a soldier in the war of the revolution.

Fort Covington became an American military outpost within a month following the declaration of war, a company under Captain Rufus Tilden of Moira having occupied it July 8, 1812, and proceeded at once to erect a block house—which, however, was never finished. It stood on Covington Hill, but whether near the site of the Presbyterian church, as most residents of the place appear to believe, or farther west, at the crest of the hill above Water street, is, I think, an open question. Other companies, from the vicinity of Troy, arrived in September, and one from Essex county in October. All were under the command of Major Guilford Young of Troy, and, with the exception of Captain Tilden's, were withdrawn early in November, but not until after they had made two expeditions against St. Regis, the first of which was fruitless. On the second they captured the place and a company of British soldiers which was in garrison there. Yet another expedition, of which I have never seen mention except in a private letter written by one of the participants (Lieut. Noble of Essex county), was undertaken November 3d. The battalion was ordered out by Major Young ostensibly to proceed against plunderers who were alleged to be driving off cattle at a point eight or ten miles away. They marched all day, a distance of about eighteen miles, for eleven of which they floundered through two swamps, when some of the officers revolted because no plunderers had been found and because they had become satisfied that the major was in reality leading them to an attack upon a superior force near Montreal. They returned with their forces to French Mills—their commands being militia organizations, and therefore not subject to service beyond the confines of their own country. Hardly had the Troy and Essex county companies been withdrawn from French Mills when Captain Tilden and his men, numbering forty-odd, were captured by a larger force of British, Canadians and Indians, who remained hardly an hour. The post was occupied soon thereafter by companies from Columbia county, which remained until March, 1813, and then by the company of Captain

David Erwin of Constable, who continued in charge until the arrival of General Wilkinson's army in November of the same year. The year following Captain Tilden's capture was without notable incident locally. The story of General Wilkinson's stay is recited in considerable detail in another chapter, and need not be repeated. Hospital Surgeon James Mann, from Massachusetts, says that at this date the vicinity of French Mills was a wilderness, and letters written by members of Major Young's command, a year earlier, complained bitterly that, though the officers were able to find accommodations of a sort in the homes of residents, the body of privates had to live in tents and huts, with altogether inadequate protection from the cold. The many sick soldiers in General Wilkinson's army had mostly to be transferred to Malone, though local tradition is to the effect that a house opposite the American Hotel was converted to hospital uses. But even if every habitation in the place had been so taken, no great number could have been accommodated, as a map of date 1818 shows only thirty buildings in all, including mills, in the mile square. The army remained until February, 1814, a part camping on Covington Hill, near the block house, and others on a site on the west side of the river, about a quarter of a mile south of Chateaugay street. Both positions are believed by present residents to have been fortified, and there is an impression on the part of some that the military reservation adjacent to Canada on the east side of the river also had defensive works. But apparently more intelligent examination of this latter locality resolves what had been deemed a fortification into a reservoir for supplying water to a distillery just across the border. Pipe logs leading to the place from the mill pond have been cut at a number of points. The army here was under the immediate command of General Jacob Brown of Jefferson county, General Wilkinson having transferred his headquarters to Malone. When General Brown's command was withdrawn and departed for Sacketts Harbor in February, 1814, the block house is said to have been burned and the barges which had brought the force from Sacketts Harbor scuttled and burned down to the ice. Of the truth of the latter representation there is no doubt whatever, as the wrecks of the boats are still to be found at the river bottom, but the block house is claimed by some to have continued to stand for a good many years. Upon evacuation by General Brown the British marched in, February 19, 1814, and seized such stores as were to be found.

The presence of an army in a community, its individual units freed from the restraints of home, and prompted often in periods of camp



Masonic agitation. Services were held at first in the townhouse, schoolhouses or private residences. In 1829 a church edifice was erected, which was enlarged and improved and a bell purchased in 1852. Schism arose in 1843, growing out of opposing views concerning the pastor, and seemingly paralyzed church activities. The pastor was dropped from 1844 to 1848, when he was reinstated, and concord prevailed until 1868, when dissension again developed, but from what cause, to what extent or with what duration does not appear. With few exceptions the church had regular pastors continuously until 1882, when a vacancy occurred for four years, since when there have been many times when there was no pastor; and now, for five or six years past, the society has been moribund because of deaths and removals of members. Revivification is not contemplated.

The story of early Presbyterianism here is obscure and complicated. The Associated Reformed Scotch Church had some sort of an organization contemporaneously with Mr. Colver's earliest labors, or possibly antedating them a little, under the leadership and ministration of Rev. "Father" Brunson or Brunton. Rev. James Erwin's autobiography gives him the former name, but the latter is correct. "Father" Brunton was the father of the first wife of John Burch of Malone and of John Brunton, who made his home in the seventies and eighties with Mr. Burch. He was a quaint little figure of a man, with twinkling eyes, always moving at a trot, and very rarely missing a Sabbath service or a prayer meeting at the Congregational church. Though unbalanced mentally, he had been highly educated, read or spoke a number of languages, and was encyclopedic in his fund of general information. Mr. Erwin pictures what seem to-day to have been amazing conditions as prevalent in the elder Brunton's time. Mr. Erwin's father was a "ruling elder" in the church, and both spiritually and socially was intimate with "Father" Brunton, who used to spend his Saturday afternoons and evenings at the Erwins' home, and upon such occasions invariably using the brandy decanter so freely that he was unable to walk home unattended — Mr. Erwin's sisters always accompanying him and steadying from either side. Moreover, "Father" Brunton always called at the Erwins' on his way to church Sabbath mornings, and drew upon the decanter to brace him for pulpit service. The morning sermon was never less than an hour and a half in length, and in the afternoon (which service followed after only a half hour's intermission) was still longer. Mr. Erwin adds that Mr. Brunton's and his father's use of stimulants occasioned no reflections upon them, as drinking was then

common even among religious people. Both were accounted examples of righteousness, with the "moral rigidness of Puritanism," but as a matter of course at that time they were animated with "sectarian bigotry." When the younger Erwin united with the Methodists his father drove him from the house for no other reason, though a reconciliation was effected a little later through the influence of the mother. According to Dr. Hough, the Brunton régime closed about 1821, after which a Rev. Mr. Crosby, a teacher in an unincorporated academy in the place, started a Congregational church organization, which continued weakly for a short time, and in 1827 a United Presbyterian church was formed by Rev. Alexander Proudfoot, from Salem, Washington county, with Rev. John A. Savage (who became the first principal of the incorporated academy) as pastor. The next year the form of organization was changed to Presbyterian simply, and association effected with the Champlain Presbytery. The church edifice was erected about 1828 or 1829, and was rebuilt and enlarged in 1866.

Quoting in abbreviated form from Rev. John Talbot Smith's history of the diocese of Ogdensburg, Cornelius, Patrick and Michael Dineen came to Fort Covington in 1822 from Ireland, and were soon followed by other Irishmen and Catholics until the number seemed in 1826 to warrant attention by Rev. Father Moore of Huntingdon, Que., who visited the place and said mass at the hotel. At rare intervals thereafter during the next few years Father Moore or some other priest continued such visits, but mostly the Catholics of the place enjoyed their own church privileges only by journeying, always on foot, to St. Regis or Hogansburgh. Rev. Father McNulty of Hogansburgh organized St. Mary's church at Fort Covington in 1837, and a church building was erected — the entire male Catholic population turning out for the work. For the next thirty-two years the parish was attended from Hogansburgh. The church edifice was completed through the efforts of Rev. James Keveney, and it was not until 1869 that the parish became an independent one, comprising one hundred and seventy families, with a resident rector. A parochial residence was bought at a cost of three thousand dollars, and a little later the church was given a new roof at about an equal expenditure. During the rectorship of Rev. Father Charles J. McMorrow, in 1883, a new cemetery was purchased, and under Rev. Father James McGowan the church was improved — a new floor laid, new pews put in, a tower added and the interior generally beautified. Father McGowan contributed two thousand dollars from his own means to the work, and also gave a bell. During the rectorship

of Rev. Father J. L. Desjardins, which began in 1911 and still continues, a vestry has been added to the church and \$2,300 of debts paid. The parish includes 290 families, numbering 1,213 persons.

So far as the records of the "First Methodist Episcopal Society in Fort Covington" show, the church was organized under the labors of Rev. Arzu J. Phelps, pastor, at a meeting held December 17, 1838, at the town house, "the usual place of worship," and the certificate of incorporation as recorded in the county clerk's office bears the same date. But this was by no means the beginning of Methodism in the town, for the conference records show the appointment in 1830 of two ministers to the charge, which was even then reported to have one hundred and seventy members, or nearly three times the present number. Yet further, we know from Rev. James Erwin that there were Methodist activities there at least as early as 1828, but whether under the care of circuit riders, local exhorters or class leaders can not now be told. It was in 1828 that Mr. Erwin, a mere boy, was won to the faith and united with the denomination at the cost of expulsion from his home because of the intolerance and anger of his father, who had designed that he should become a Presbyterian minister. While we have no evidence or record in the matter, it may probably be safely assumed, considering the then comparative importance of the place, that Methodist ministration began even quite a bit before Mr. Erwin's conversion. The explanation of formal organization having been delayed until 1838 is doubtless that there was at about that time a religious awakening of considerable proportions, as Rev. C. L. Dunning, then stationed at Malone, had been holding protracted revival meetings there, and had been followed in like effort by Rev. Jesse Peck (afterward a distinguished bishop of the church), and in 1836 the membership had jumped to nearly three hundred, but decreased in 1838 to eighty-six. The church edifice was originally located a short distance from its present site, to which it was moved in 1838, when Warren L. Manning gave the lot to the society and also erected the parsonage at his own expense. In 1844 and 1845, for a year or two following 1866, and from 1877 to 1901 it was joined with Bombay as a conference appointment, and in 1875 with Westville Center. Otherwise it has always been an independent parish by itself, with no out-charge. The present membership is about sixty.

Unless, as is conjectured to have been the case, army chaplains of the Episcopalian faith may have held services occasionally during the war of 1812, the first ministration with the Episcopal ritual was by

animated and rollicking with innocent fun, and its annual suppers were notable social affairs. It disbanded in 1881, and the engine was sold to Ellenburgh in 1901 for \$250.

A notice published by the village trustees in 1855 required the building of sidewalks on a number of specified streets, but not on Elm or Main—from which it is concluded that these had already been so equipped. East Main street was formerly Church street, West Main was Court street, and Pearl originally Horton and then King street.

Dr. Bates wrote of early Malone that it was a rare thing to see people out riding on Sunday, and that “after the churches closed the streets were empty, and a peaceful silence reigned. When the sun went down the Sabbath was ended. The womenfolk resumed their usual occupations of knitting, mending and spinning.” Rev. James Erwin, who conducted protracted revival services here in 1836, wrote: “The people of that town were great church goers. I have had a wide observation of the church going habits of people in many sections of the country, but never found any other town that excelled Malone in that respect. \* \* \* The good people of Malone came from far and near ‘to worship in His holy temple.’ Every church was usually crowded. \* \* \* Those from a distance brought the largest loads, and usually were the first to arrive at the church. I have often held up the custom of that town as an example for other communities to follow.” How gratified would be the pastors of our churches to-day, and what an inspiration it would be to them in their pulpits, if this condition now obtained. But apparently a change began to appear within the dozen years succeeding the period of which Mr. Erwin spoke, for in 1858 a correspondent of the *Palladium* complained of Sabbath desecration by ball playing, neglect of church attendance, etc., as having “sprang up within ten years.” Moreover, the tendency noted in 1858 has continued progressively ever since.

Malone had telegraphic service first in 1851, or about a year after the railroad was finished.

While the only early iron works of consequence were the forge at “whiskey hollow,” there yet were others of a sort both earlier and later, the history of some of which, however, is fragmentary and to some extent obscure. In 1815 “Tough” Hastings, whose real name, I think, was Levi, had a large blacksmith shop and triphammer works at the west end of the Horton dam, just off Duane street. An angry helper one day struck him with an iron bar, breaking the frontal bone and destroying one eye. He was left for dead, but made a quick recovery, and soon afterward pitched headforemost into a well. His

Colton just off West Main street at about the same time with Rounds; and by Joseph Dumas later on Constable street. Mr. Rounds has many monuments in the town as a builder, including the Rutland passenger station, the poorhouse, the courthouse and the Centenary Methodist Episcopal church.

Planing mills and general woodworking establishments by Martin Kearney, and later by Charles A. Burke and John Kelley, on Catherine street; by Orville Moore on Milwaukie street and afterward on Pearl street; and successively by John R. Jackson and J. L. Keeney, Ladd, Smallman & Wentworth, A. M. Erwin & Co., and P. J. Murtagh on Duane street.

A small broom factory, established soon after the civil war by Frank Benoit, and worked by him individually for something like thirty years, until 1908, when a corporation organized therefor took it over, and Samuel Benoit, son of the founder, was made manager. Difficulty in obtaining supplies of broom-corn interfered with full success, and the factory was closed in 1916.

A match factory, which was a good deal of a joke, by T. B. Cushman, employing no one except himself and daughter, and turning out a product more adapted to kindling profanity than for starting a fire.

A slaughter house and pork packing establishment north of the village in 1880 by N. P. Gravell & Co., which was to have a capacity of three hundred hogs a day, and was to compete in this section with the big Chicago packers. It was not a success.

A stone flouring mill, five stories in height, near the Gravell plant, which was begun by George F. Dickey in 1868 and finished in 1870, with the expectation that it would have an output comparable with that of the large mills at Oswego and Rochester. It was too big a proposition for Mr. Dickey's means, however, and the property soon went into the hands of Henry A. Paddock. About 1882 it was bought and run by A. Munger for a number of years. For a time it did an ordinary country mill business, and after Mr. Munger's death was converted into an excelsior mill. It burned in 1911.

A flax mill on Duane street by S. J. Harwood in 1864 and 1865.

A soap factory near the Rutland Railroad freight depot by Baker S. Horrigan and George D. Lytle.

A plant for making trousers and other garments for men, established on Amsden street in 1898 by a corporation styled The Malone Manufacturing Company. The business was not profitable, and was discontinued after a few years.

beginning of the year 1816 was signalized by extreme thoughtfulness on the part of all classes. Religious topics became the staple of conversation. On the highway the pastor was accustomed to be met with an earnest inquiry by an apparent stranger upon some one of the fundamental doctrines. \* \* \* This was not a period of fanaticism — not a blaze of religious fervor and then a heap of mouldering embers, but the fire was kindled on the heart's altar and burned with a clear, steady glow. \* \* \* The revival left its seal on the following years. Indeed, the church has not yet outgrown the spiritual power of that single season. One hundred, between May and September of that year, joined this body."

The next notable religious movement of like character came in 1836, and was under Methodist Episcopal direction, though the Congregationalists always shared in the evening services. Rev. Charles L. Dunning was the Methodist pastor here, and Rev. James Erwin was in charge of the Chateaugay circuit. The latter's boyhood had been passed at Fort Covington, he had preached a number of times at camp meetings in Malone, and he was persuaded to come here in the winter of 1836 and work with Mr. Dunning. The services were held in the court house, the judge's desk serving as pulpit, a bench back of it for seating the participating clergy, and the inclosure in front which is usually occupied in court time by attorneys, witnesses and litigants for the men and women who led in prayer and were active helpers in the work, and also as a "mourner's bench." As a general thing meetings were held three times a day — those in the morning "for the benefit of the church, the establishing of converts, and for instructing penitents in the way of faith;" those in the afternoon for preaching, followed by prayer, and continuing sometimes until the evening service, which was on many accounts the most important of the day, as many, otherwise engaged mornings and afternoons, could then be present. In the evening there was always a sermon, usually addressed to the unconverted, followed by a rousing exhortation, and then "by one, two or three hours spent in united, earnest prayer, singing and giving instruction to the penitents. \* \* \* Great crowds attended the meetings from all the country around. They came from Bangor, Constable, Burke, Bellmont, and from 'up south.' \* \* \* Some revivals bring in young people mainly; others an older class. But this took old and young, rich and poor, learned and unlearned. It was one of God's great 'flood tides'." The work continued without abatement for six weeks, the crowds increasing until the breaking up of the roads in

the spring interrupted travel. "The Sabbath crowds were immense. People came from great distances, bringing refreshments with them, and spent the entire day, from the nine o'clock lovefeast to the close of the service," which was never until nearly midnight. "Sunday was the great seed sowing day, and on Monday we gathered the harvest," the conversions always being most numerous on that day. Mr. Erwin preached more than sixty sermons during the six weeks, and at the conclusion of his final effort fell in the pulpit, and could do no more preaching for three years, but was eventually so restored to health and strength that he continued active in the ministry for a third of a century and more.

Another remarkable revival was in the spring of 1840, a Congregational activity, with Rev. Jedediah Burchard the principal worker. Mr. Burchard was an evangelist of considerable repute and an enthusiastic and eloquent preacher, who exercised much control over his audiences, and caused a great deal of excitement and religious fervor. One stipulation in the arrangements which brought him to Malone required that he be supplied daily with fresh beef — which had to be brought by stage from Plattsburgh. A resident of that time, who gave some of his recollections to the press at a much later date, irreverently called Mr. Burchard's meetings a "howling success", and added that the evangelist had formerly been a circus rider, and that in transport of exhortation he would leap from the pulpit and do acrobatic stunts in front of it, which is the more believable because Sanford's history of the town of Hopkinton, where Mr. Burchard went from Malone, states that "he would walk about among the people in the audience on the tops of the backs of the square pews, loudly and eloquently exhorting them to give up their wicked ways, and thus save themselves from eternal hell fire." In one sermon he described a great seething, roaring blast furnace which melted ore to a white heat, and declared that, inconceivably hot as the furnace was, hell was so much hotter that if one of its inmates could be transferred to the furnace he would freeze to death in five minutes! Mr. Burchard died at Adams, Jefferson county, in 1864. There is no authentic information available in regard to the permanency of Mr. Burchard's work in Malone other than that he sowed seeds of dissension between Doctor Parmelee and his people, which weakened the influence of the pastor, and which, after the evangelist's departure, nearly divided the church. As his son told in a biography of Doctor Parmelee, Mr. Burchard's "peculiar way of preaching, conducting meetings and telling ludicrous anecdotes were

## CHAPTER XXII

### WESTVILLE

Westville was formed from Constable in 1829, and was so called from the fact that it was the west half of what remained of the parent town after Fort Covington had been set off therefrom. For many years the northern of the two hamlets in Westville was known as West Constable, but is now generally called Westville Corners. The other is Westville Center.

The town had a population of just about six hundred when erected, but having always lacked transportation facilities, and its industries having dwindled with the collapse of the iron works and with the disappearance of its forests, its growth was slow even during the period in which there was growth at all, while from 1875 to 1900 the trend was steadily in the contrary direction. It was one of the half dozen towns in the county which made a gain in the number of its inhabitants during the period of the civil war, and in 1875 the maximum was reached, the census of that year having given it a population of 1,721, which fell exactly six hundred in the then ensuing twenty-five years — five-sixths of which loss occurred between 1875 and 1890. The population has remained practically stationary since 1900, and by the enumeration of 1915 stands at 1,128.

Westville's surface is generally level. In the northern part the soil is clayey, and in the central southern sandy. Elsewhere it is generally a light loam, with interval lands here and there which are rich and very productive. Formerly a considerable section of the southern part was thought to be almost worthless for farming purposes, but much of these lands have since been developed wonderfully, and have become Malone's garden patch, producing the earliest and finest vegetables and berries.

The town is watered by the Salmon river, which traverses it from southeast to northwest; by Deer river, which cuts through its southwest corner; and by a number of brooks, the largest of which are the Plumb and Briggs brooks.

In the northeastern part there is a sulphur spring, the properties of the water being similar to the more famous spring at Massena. Forty or fifty years ago it was frequented by considerable numbers of people,



who found accommodations during their sojourn at a neighboring farm house, and used the water for its real or supposed beneficial qualities, and larger numbers were accustomed to drive to the spring and take the water home with them. It is less visited now.

Another spring of a remarkable character lies in the southwestern part of the town, its water as clear as crystal, pure and cold. Over a space of perhaps twenty to thirty feet in diameter the water boils up visibly through the sand, spreading out to a diameter of forty or fifty feet, and at some points is three or four feet deep.

Amos Welch, from Grand Isle, Vt., was the first settler in the present limits of the town, having occupied in 1800 the site of the present burying ground at Westville Corners, and built and operated the first saw mill; probably in the immediate vicinity. Even the oldest inhabitant, aged ninety-six years, does not remember ever to have heard of it. But the explanation is, I think, that Welch owned the property for only a short time, and that the life of the mill was brief. James Constable visited this northern section in 1804 and 1805 to look after the Constable landed interests here, and noted in the diary that he kept on the first trip that John Livingston then had a saw mill near Westville Corners, and on the second tour that the mill had been burned a few weeks previously "by a fire intended to drive away mosquitoes, possibly owing to carelessness." Mr. Constable's diary adds that Livingston himself had no contract with the Constable estate for his lands, but that he held "under that of Amos Welch." Moreover, he refers in 1804 to a saw mill at Welch's, four miles east of Man's, as nearly finished, so that it would seem that after having sold to Livingston Welch had moved to Constable.

In 1801 Albon and Alric Man, brothers, of Vergennes, Vt., came to "spy out the land" and estimate its opportunities and advantages. The Man family had been lumbermen and iron manufacturers in Connecticut and Vermont for two generations, and the timber and water powers which Albon and Alric found here naturally appealed strongly to them. In 1802 they accordingly returned with their families, and were accompanied by a considerable colony of friends and kinsmen, including the Berrys, some of whom settled in Malone; the Barnums, who located in Chateaugay, Burke and Bangor; the Hitchcocks, who established themselves in Constable, Malone and Fort Covington; and John T. Phillips, who was the father of Dr. James S. Phillips, of Malone, and of Edwin, of Westville. Henry Briggs, Oliver Bell, Ezekiel Paine and others followed soon afterward, and the locality began to show activity and growth. Among others who located at an early day

were Alexander McMillan, Robert Creighton, Alexander and David Erwin, Elisha and Henry G. Button, Silas Cushman, and Joseph and Thomas Wright. Many of these are still familiar names in several of the towns of the county, and a number of the men named or their descendants became prominent and filled large places in the affairs of Westville and of Franklin county. Twenty to thirty years later Jacob Wead, Guy Meigs, Goodrich Hazen, Ebenezer Leonard, Philemon Berry and Jacob P. Hadley (father of Joseph P.) had become residents, and were among the most active and influential men in the community.

The Wrights built a saw mill at least as early as 1804 on the west side of the river and a grist mill on the east side, near Westville Corners. The saw mill was afterward owned, either in whole or in part, by William Creighton, of Fort Covington, then by Ebenezer Man and Guy Meigs, and from 1824 to 1829 by Meigs & Wead, of Malone. In the latter year it was sold to Goodrich Hazen, who ran a store and potash works also. Afterward it was run in turn by Samuel Coggin, Henry B. Longley, Amos Cushman and Alexander McMillan. The grist mill, a quaint structure with odd equipment, was sold under foreclosure, and afterwards passed through many hands. The original mill was burned, the site and power privileges being acquired by Deacon Joel Lyman and William L. Streeter, of Fort Covington, by whom a new mill was erected and operated. They sold in 1862 to George W. Newell, and he to James McGregor. The mill was again burned and again rebuilt, about 1872. Then it was acquired by Henry A. Paddock and Samuel McElwain, and in 1877 was once more burned. It has not been replaced. The site is now owned by John C. Wright.

A letter written by Major Albon P. Man in 1903 recites that his grandfather told him that when he came to Westville the plains lying between Westville Center and Malone were densely forested with pine of giant size, straight as an arrow. The brothers, Albon and Alric, engaged at once in lumbering, erecting a mill at the Center in 1803, and also cutting the best of the pine for ship masts. The lumber and masts were floated down the Salmon river to Fort Covington, where they were made into rafts and navigated to Montreal or Quebec. In 1866 Major Man visited the latter city, and in an interview with the successor in business of the house with which the Mans had dealt was informed, after an inspection of the books, that some of the mast timbers had measured one hundred and sixty-five feet in length, and had brought from three to four thousand dollars apiece! They went into three-decker frigates or men-of-war of Great Britain. The business continued as a partnership until 1810, when Dr. Man withdrew because

of misgivings as to its safety if war should occur with Great Britain. General Man continued operations on his own account until 1812, when war did break out, and a seizure and condemnation of some of his rafts by the British caused his bankruptcy. The Man saw mill went to Seth Hastings of Albany, and from him to Harry V. Man, was sold under foreclosure to Myron Hitchcock, of Fort Covington, in 1829, and then in turn to Samuel Man, Charles A. Powell, Joel Lyman, Robert Dunlop and Robert Clark. The latter tore it down in 1876.

The Man Brothers also built a forge at the point now known as Westville Center, and operated it for a few years with the help of their relatives, nearly all of whom had been trained in the business while yet living in Vermont. Bog ore, dug a mile or two to the west, and later brought from Brasher, was used. Subsequently the forge was sold to and run by Captain David Erwin (complimentary called "general") and Moses Erwin; and later by Edwin Phillips, a son of John T. It continued to be worked, though not uninterruptedly, until about 1850, turning out such varieties of wrought iron as were in local demand. The shafting in the grist mill at the Center was hammered out in this forge, and is still in use. Nails were one of its products, the process of making them consisting in drawing out the iron under the hammer into bars or plates of the width of a nail's length and of about the proper thickness; and from these cutting and heading the nails by hand. In view of the labor requirements under this process it does not seem strange that the usual price for the nails was thirty cents per pound. The forge made bar iron also for whatever uses blacksmiths found for it — horseshoes, sled shoes, etc. The final operators of the works were Peter Taro and three or four of his brothers. They had no capital, but possessed experience and skill, and turned out a superior quality of iron. Peter Taro became a noted character in Malone as a renovator of hats by blacking them. He was seldom, or never, sober, and upon one occasion in a saloon he essayed the role of William Tell's son, permitting another character, for the consideration of one drink, to attempt to shoot an object from his head. Both men were drunk, and the bullet ploughed a furrow across Taro's scalp. "Up she goes, poor Peter!"

The Mans also built a grist mill at the Center in 1811. The chain of ownership of this property is identical with that of the saw mill, heretofore stated, except that it is now owned by J. J. Stewart; it is still in operation. Mr. Stewart bought it from Robert Clark in 1904.

Albon Man was a physician, and made his home east of Westville Center, at the place where Guy Man now lives. Though not enlisted, he gave a good deal of attendance to the sick of General Wilkinson's

Learned's farm six or seven miles north of Malone village, and are understood to have been a parsonage lot. Services used to be held at the school house. A Mr. Sisco was an early Wesleyan pastor, and under him the movement had its greatest activity and strength, and he planned at one time to erect a church building in the neighborhood. A Mr. Gaskill preceded Mr. Sisco, and in subsequent years Wallace Learned, a resident of the locality, and not ordained, officiated as preacher.

Fifty-five years ago, or thereabout, at a time when there was no clergyman of any denomination stationed in the town, Elder J. N. Webb, a Baptist, long stationed at Fort Covington, officiated often in the union church at the Corners.

Westville first appears in the records of the Black River Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1837, apparently as an independent charge, though no clergyman was assigned to it in that year — the minutes showing that it was "to be supplied." From 1838 to 1842 the conference records carry no mention of Westville, but in the latter year Matthew Bennett was assigned to it, and thereafter appointments continued to be made to it until 1858, from which year it does not again show in the records until 1897, when it is coupled with Constable. Nevertheless, as a matter of fact, and as the local church records show, it was associated with Constable throughout the entire period indicated, except for a short time when it was joined with Fort Covington, the two being served by one pastor. The local records begin only with 1861. The church edifice, which is at the Center, was erected in 1869, but incorporation was not effected until 1874. It is interesting to note that the conference records give the membership of the church in 1837 as one hundred, but as only fifty in 1849. The figures for 1837 prove that Rev. Mr. Erwin's work and that of Malone circuit riders had not been without fruit. There was also a "class" at Briggs street in very early times. Barnabas Berry was its leader. During a good many years Charles Johnson, who made his home in Westville and had the status of a local preacher, officiated at Methodist services both at the Center and at the Corners when the Methodists had lacked a regular pastor or the regular pastor was absent or ill, and hardly a death occurred in the town in his later years that he was not called upon to preach the funeral sermon. His ministrations included also the work of a circuit rider, and his field extended from Malone well down into Canada.

A general order issued by Canadian Adjutant-General Edward Baynes on November 27th states the strength of the British in this attack as one hundred and forty men, and adds: "The attack was conducted with great judgment, alertness and spirit. The enemy fled to a block-house for protection, but, being completely surrounded, one captain, two subalterns and forty-one men, which composed the garrison of this post, surrendered prisoners of war. Four batteaux and fifty-seven stand of arms were taken. In rendering that praise which is due to the spirit and good order with which this service has been performed, his excellency has the greatest satisfaction in noticing the moderation and discipline displayed by the troops, by confining themselves to a just and ample retaliation for the attack upon a company of voyageurs at St. Regis; and in respecting the persons and property of the inhabitants which the events of war had placed at their disposal."

As already told, Captain Tilden and his men continued to be carried on the rolls while they were prisoners as though still in service in the field. Most of them were mustered out at once after they had been exchanged, but a few were not discharged until a month later — perhaps because sickness may have delayed their return or they may have separated from the main body on the march.

Miss Sarah L. Perry, formerly superintendent of Malone's schools, and Mrs. S. D. P. Williams (nee Burnham) of Ogdensburg, are granddaughters of Captain Tilden.

At once following Captain Tilden's capture, a company under the command of David Erwin of Constable (seventy men in all) was installed as a garrison at French Mills, but was succeeded after about two weeks by troops from Columbia county, who remained until the following March. These were in turn relieved by Captain Erwin, who, through three separate terms of service, continued in command at French Mills until the arrival of General Wilkinson's army in November, 1913. With the exception of the building of the block-house by Captain Tilden and others, the erection of an arsenal at Malone, and two block-houses at Chateaugay, and except also the two insignificant affairs in 1812, as just told, there had been no military activities whatever in the county, beyond the bringing of arms from Plattsburgh, until General Hampton came to Chateaugay and General Wilkinson to French Mills.

General Wade Hampton, of South Carolina, had been an officer in the war of the revolution. He owned three thousand slaves, was the richest planter in the south, and was indisposed to brook restraint. He was, besides, accused of intemperance. Nominally he was under the command of General James Wilkinson, of Kentucky, who also had seen

Salaberry himself alone standing his ground, and clutching a bugler by the collar to restrain him from flight. This bugler was commanded to sound the charge, and another officer, hurrying up with reinforcements, had the inspiration to scatter his buglers through the forest, with orders to sound an advance from various points, while the Indians were incited to let loose a series of fiendish yells. The bugles and the cries are said to have created the impression among General Hampton's men that they were confronted by a force of at least ten thousand. The Americans were without competent guides, and one of the columns lost its way. In the confusion two bodies of the Americans are said to have fired upon each other. After some hours of desultory fighting the American army retreated more or less in confusion, and returned to its encampment near Chateaugay village. Canadian historians attribute to this battle and to that at Chrystler's Farm, which occurred a fortnight later, the saving of Montreal, and, indeed, all of Canada from conquest. They insist that their victory on the Chateaugay was indisputable and complete, while American writers rather regard it as a drawn affair, though Lossing pronounces it a disgrace to the American arms. General Hampton's own officers were bitter against him for his conduct of the movement and battle, and one of them intimated strongly that if he had been competent and sober, the result would have been different. A careful reading of the reports on both sides compels the conclusion that, the disparity of forces considered, and taking into account the demoralized American retreat, and the subsequent retirement of Hampton to Plattsburgh, the great advantage and the glory were all with the enemy. General Hampton himself explained later that his movement had no independent object, and that it was intended only as a diversion in the interest of General Wilkinson, in order to prevent British reinforcements from being sent to the troops that were opposing the latter. The Americans left upward of forty dead on the field, while of the British only five were killed and twenty wounded and missing. A Franklin county company under command of Captain David Erwin is said by Hough to have participated in this movement, though such representation conflicts with the record of Captain Erwin having been at French Mills at that time.

On November 7th General Hampton was virtually ordered to repair to St. Regis with his army, there to join General Wilkinson. He replied that his troops were raw, dispirited and sickly, and were themselves short of food; and thereupon, on November 11th, the very day that he was sorely needed at Chrystler's Farm, he set out for Plattsburgh. General Wilkinson complained that had Hampton obeyed orders, a com-

all claims of said Gates Hoit for secret services rendered by him during the late war."

Captain David Erwin had seen service during the war of the revolution, and in his later years was commonly given the complimentary title of general. He was elected to the State Senate in 1822, but in 1824, as the candidate of the Republican party (afterward known as the Democratic party) for member of Assembly, was defeated by Asa Hascall.

General Wilkinson was relieved of command on the northern frontier in the spring of 1814, and in 1815 was tried by court martial for his conduct of the campaign of 1813. He was acquitted.

Mr. Sellars's account of General Hampton's engagement with de Salaberry omits some of the dramatic and farcical features attributed to it by Christie, Kingsford and others, and gives a more orderly character to the retreat of the American army, which he does not assign to defeat, but to the fact that General Hampton received on the field a dispatch from General Wilkinson to the effect that he had not yet sailed from Sacket Harbor, which, of course, made it useless for General Hampton to press forward at that time to the St. Lawrence, because he would have been without boats, separated by a wilderness from his base of supply, and in a country itself incapable of supporting an army. Mr. Sellars gives a strength of four thousand men to General Hampton's army of invasion, with fifteen hundred militia, who, under no obligation to leave their own country, remained south of the border to guard his base and protect his lines of communication. A week's time was required to complete the retreat to Chateaugay, which Mr. Sellars says was not disturbed by the regular British troops, though the Indians did hang upon the rear of the column and took an occasional scalp.

Mr. Sellars states that while General Hampton's army was encamped at Chateaugay food had to be drawn for it from Plattsburgh, keeping four hundred wagons and one thousand oxen constantly on the road; and that even then the supply was often short.

Concerning the army of General Wilkinson, Mr. Sellars says that while the flotilla that transported it required eight days to make eighty miles, a log set adrift in the channel would have made the distance of itself in a quarter of the time. Mr. Sellars condemns the conduct of many of the captains after arrival at French Mills as shameful, saying that as deaths and desertions occurred they did not revise their rolls, and thus managed to draw pay and rations for the dead and absent — pocketing the pay, and by sale converting the rations into cash. He says, further, that after the fight at Chrystler's not all of the American

boats "found moorings in the Salmon river. A few openly rowed to the Canadian shore, the soldiers preferring desertion to the hardships before them. Worse still was the conduct of many officers, who sold the stores on the boats and pocketed the money."

Mr. Sellars is of the opinion that General Wilkinson might easily have taken Montreal, even after the defeat at Chrystler's, the city being defended only by a "paltry garrison of two hundred sailors and four hundred marines, drawn from the fleet at Quebec, and a mob of militia-men dragged from their homes by compulsion to shoulder a gun."

In August, 1812, the Franklin county committee of safety reported to General Mooers that the military supplies received here were damaged. One hundred muskets got wet in transit, and had rusted; the cartridges were for another make of arms, and would not fit the muskets that had been sent; and a good deal of the powder had lost its granulated form and caked into a solid mass; half of the guns were unfit for use because out of repair or because the barrels were crooked, or the stocks broken or split. It was recommended that David Erwin be employed to repair the muskets. General Mooers so ordered, and promised that more guns and supplies would be sent here.

General Mooers reported to Governor Tompkins in July, 1812, that of the men sent here from Essex county under Major Noble, a number had no blankets, some not a second shirt, and some were without shoes.

Copies of private letters written from Chateaugay and French Mills by Lieutenant Charles McNeil, of Essex, and loaned to me by a relative, are racy and interesting. I make random quotations from them: "When we first received information that no one of us could leave our post one mile, the captain and ensign both concluded to die; but the ensign has got quite well, and we really have hopes of our captain; he begins to sip a little whiskey occasionally." Three weeks later, October 1st: "With much reluctance I mention to you the loss of our worthy and highly esteemed captain. His health is such that our commanding general is about to discharge him. It spreads a cloud of darkness over Chateaugay.

\* \* \* I have the pleasure to inform you that a small regiment of detached militia is now on the march from Plattsburgh to our assistance in this county. Captain (Pliny) Miller has passed on to the militia. His company consists of fifty-four good men. \* \* \* In the morning I shall form the company, together with some respectable neighbors, and march to the spring, half a mile, and fire once by company. The soldiers are willing to pay for their cartridges; the captain is to give them a gallon and take his leave." Two weeks later, from French Mills: "I will just



mention to you how the men followed the damnedest woods, and three times through the Chateaugay river, up to their arms in water. Not a man flinched; we did not compel them to go; they volunteered for a scout. We board at the Widow Wires with officers of the Troy Invincibles and Fusileers; we have our board at \$2.25 per week. \* \* \* We received orders at eight o'clock in the evening to march at seven in the morning of the next day, from Chateaugay to this place. Our men and their clothes were scattered from Dan to Beersheba. Before six in the morning every man was paraded, ready to march, with their baggage loaded. We came through the same day. The snow is plenty in this place about our tents. O! my God! how the poor boys grumble about their rag houses; only twenty-three blankets for fifty-four men. Who would not be a soldier? My tent, or, rather, marquee, is most damned cold. I am obliged to stop every few lines and whip my hands."

Writing October 31st from French Mills, Lieutenant McNeil tells of the expedition to St. Regis, and exalts the courage of his command upon that occasion, adding that "five thousand such boys would sink the whole province of Canada." He adds: "The inhabitants of Canada are much displeased with our going into Canada; they expect they will soon have their heads skinned in consequence of it. But one good effect I know it had. The St. Regis Indians were all going to the British, and within three days after that time they all moved to this place. They dare not go back."

Under date of November 8th Lieutenant McNeil tells of "a wild goose chase" on the 3d inst., when Major Young ordered out the battalion upon representation that there was a party of Indians within eight or ten miles, stealing and driving off cattle, hogs and sheep. A force of about one hundred and twenty soldiers took up the march, expecting to find a hundred plunderers. After proceeding four miles a swamp was struck and crossed, and then another longer one, in crossing which the men could not see two rods from each other, and in which many got mired. This second swamp was seven miles through. Then, having advanced another mile or two, and having learned from the inhabitants that there were no plunderers in the vicinity, and also that the major had sent the pack horses to the very place where he had represented that the Indians were operating, the other officers became convinced that the major was in fact leading them to Baker's, near Montreal, with the purpose of taking a fort there, notwithstanding it was garrisoned by two hundred men, with five hundred more within easy call, and Captain Rufus Tilden, Captain Pliny Miller and Lieutenant McNeil, with their

ensigns, held a council, and determined to proceed no farther. Being militia, these troops could not be ordered to service beyond the frontiers of the country. They accordingly went into camp for the night, without shelter of any kind, except a very few blankets, and with no food save a little pork and bread. The next morning they started on their return to French Mills without apprising the other companies. These latter followed some six hours later, and Major Young was furious at having been deserted. Lieutenant McNeil gives no further explanation of the affair. Soon afterward his company was transferred to Champlain, where he died December 10, 1812.

#### PAY-ROLLS OF FRANKLIN COUNTY MILITIA COMPANIES IN THE WAR OF 1812

The records in the adjutant-general's office at Albany include pay-rolls of companies of Franklin county militia that served during the war of 1812 under the command of Captain Rufus Tilden of Moira, Captain David Erwin of Constable, Captain Moses Eggleston of Chateaugay, and Captain Stephen D. Hickok of Malone. Opposite the name of one man in Captain Tilden's company stands the word, "deserted." I think that the man so marked has no descendants now living in this county. His name is omitted in the list that follows.

While it is surprising and pathetic how in some cases formerly large families have become reduced to only one or two representatives, or even have become utterly extinct, we still know among us many descendants of the Franklin county militiamen of 1812-14, and the rosters of commands in which they served must be of interest to many of our people. It is gratifying to be able to note that, unlike so much of the material which composed in part the American army in the war in question, Franklin county gave from its very best, so that its rolls are generally to be admired and respected. The men thus serving were in the main of the rugged New England type, and, if it be the fact that the chronicles of this struggle carry few instances of brilliant and valorous service, the omission is not due to any lack of spirit or of competence on the part of individuals, but only to the circumstance that opportunity was not presented here for making such records.

The pay-rolls follow:

#### CAPTAIN RUFUS TILDEN'S COMPANY.

In service at French Mills and as Prisoners from July 8, 1812, to January 8, 1813; Strength of Command, 64 men, but not all present at any one Time; Pay of Privates up to \$41.01 for Continuous Service.

Captain — Rufus Tilden (discharged December 13, 1812).

Lieutenant — Moses Eggleston.

Ensign — Adin Wood.

Sergeants — James Campbell, Alexander Erwin, David Sayles, Jno. Beaman.

Corporals — Thomas Burgess, Samuel Heath, Thomas Spencer, Matthew Briggs.

Fifer — Calvin Chipman.

Drummer — Ansel Durphy.

#### PRIVATES.

Abraham Atwater  
Nathaniel Ayers  
Samuel Bell  
Jno. Billings  
Josiah Butterfield  
Asa Battles  
Luther Chipman  
Alpheus Chapman  
Robert Chase  
Elijah B. Dennis  
Jonathan Curtis  
Elijah Durphey  
John M. Donald  
John Garra Dennison  
Jonathan R. Esterbrooks  
Lemuel Fox  
Jno. Farnsworth, Jr.  
Ardel Gates  
Stephen Gibbs  
Dave Gibbs  
Jeremiah Hobart  
Robert Huston  
Harmon Harwood  
Jeremiah Hubbard  
Joseph Ives  
David Kelly

Richard Kidder  
Asa R. Loveland  
Bethel Martin  
Samuel Otis  
Stephen Otis  
David Percy  
Levi Potter  
Waterman Reynolds  
Charles Rowley  
Ebenezer Stinson  
David Sanborn  
Franklin Spencer  
Bostick Squires  
Jno. Stone  
Herman Sperry  
Mainard Shirman  
Ashbel N. Sanford  
Gordon Taylor  
William Thompson  
Daniel Vosburgh  
Elias Watkins  
Porter Wallis  
Reuben Wood  
Nath'l Whipple  
Merrill White  
Jas. Westlake

#### CAPTAIN RUFUS TILDEN'S COMPANY.

Place of Service not Stated, but doubtless on March to Plattsburgh; Term of Service September 11, 1814, to September 21, 1814; Pay of Privates from \$1.33 to \$2.93 each.

Captain — Rufus Tilden.

Sergeants — Oliver Conger, Charles Stickney, Samuel Wilson, Thomas Spencer, Jr.

Corporals — John A. Buckland, Isaac Bigelow, Gardiner Dickinson, Ira Potter.

#### PRIVATES.

George Adams  
John Banes  
Liba Barden  
Elisha Bidwell  
Barnabas Barnum  
Joseph Barnes  
Isaac Conger  
Silas Cornish  
William Carpenter  
Reuben Cady  
Cyrus Dyke  
Jamison Dyke  
Reuben Davis

Enoch Irish  
Orin Lawrence  
Prince Merick  
Jesse Pierce, Jr.  
Thomas Pierce  
Jason Pierce  
Jesse D. Rice  
William Saunders  
Jesse Smith  
James Taylor  
James Willson  
Omer Wood  
John Walter

## CAPTAIN DAVID ERWIN'S COMPANY.

Place of Service French Mills; Terms of Service Various; Longest from November 23, 1812, to December 8, 1812; Pay of Privates from 90 cents to \$3.56 each.

Captain — David Erwin.

Lieutenants — William Perry, Luther Winslow, Chester Fuller.

Ensign — Aaron Parks.

Sergeants — Abon Man, Seth Blanchard, Silas Johnson, Ebenezer Brownson.  
Leonard Conant, Oliver Conger.

Corporals — Nathan Stowers, Reeve Peck, Daniel B. Kingsley.

Drummer — Ashley Stowers.

## PRIVATES.

Wolcott Botchford

Charles Barnes

Liba Barden

Jehiel Barnum

John Barnes

Jehiel Berry

Robert Canada

Nath'l Chase

Moses Chamberlain

Silas Cushman

Silas Cornish

Nathaniel Curtis

John Dearborn

Lemuel Davis

Daniel Drain

David Doty

Joel Dow

Daniel Fish

Ebenezer Grover

Samuel Gott

Oramel Griffin

David Gates

Archibald Harwood

Zenas Heath

David Livingston

Benjamin Lawrence

Orin Lawrence

Arthur McMillan

William Mason

Sylvester Potter

John Potter

Gerardus Richmond

Jonathan J. Rich

Samuel Russell

William Shipman

Royal Shipman

John Sanders

John Sanders, Jr.

Benjamin Smith

Brazilla Spears

Seymour Saxton

Alanson Saxton

Lyman Sperry

Joseph Stafford

Charles Warner

Enos Wood

Ebenezer Wood

Addison Willson

Jno. Bryant, Jr.

Joseph Jones

## CAVALRY

Lieutenant — Cone Andrews

Sergeant — Zerubabel Curtis

## PRIVATES.

Jno. P. Andrews,

Benjamin Lovel,

John Lewis

Jno. S. Payne

## CAPTAIN DAVID ERWIN'S COMPANY \*

Place of Service French Mills; Terms of Service Covering Three Separate Enlistments, March 4, 1813, to May 8, 1813, May 9, 1813 to July 31, 1813, and August 1, 1813, to November 15, 1813; Pay of Privates for Entire Period \$68.31.

Captain — David Erwin.

Lieutenants — Enos Wood, Thomas Wright, Philip Briant.

Ensigns — James Campbell, Amaziah Smith.

\* NOTE.—A number of names on this roll are repeated because of changes in rank, due to promotions.

Sergeants — James Campbell, Jno. Thompson, Richmond Kidder, Jno. Saunders, Josiah Butterfield, Amos Chipman, Matthew Briggs.

Corporals — Josiah Butterfield, Amos Chipman, Jno. Davis, Jno. Spring, Jeremiah Hubbard, Asa R. Loveland, Arthur McMillan, William Shipman, William Pease, Arthur McMillan.

Drummers — Joseph Briggs, Averill Dunphey.

Fifers — Calvin Chipman, Allen Danforth.

#### PRIVATES.

Bazillar Ames  
 Samuel Baker  
 Thomas Burgess  
 Jno. Bryant  
 Jno. Billings  
 Benj. Bashaw  
 James Batthe  
 Ephraim Butler  
 John L. Brown  
 Joseph Bodroe  
 John Bodrow  
 Geo. H. W. Bryant  
 Roger Blann  
 Francis Bashaw  
 Anthony Bodroe  
 Simon Baker  
 Fred Berry  
 Calvin Butler  
 Jacob Chase  
 Aaron A. Crippen  
 John Cirkey  
 Sylvester Chase  
 Caleb Douglass  
 James Dunphey  
 Polite Emlot  
 Pruden A. Erwin  
 Jonathan R. Esterbrooks  
 Jacob Fleming  
 Asaph Fuller  
 Daniel Fuller  
 Ezra Fuller  
 Jno. Fuller  
 Joseph Gray  
 Chas. Gray  
 Theodore Gray  
 Jno. Gott  
 Stephen Gibbs  
 Lewis Greeney  
 Marcus Harriman  
 Robert Hamilton  
 Phineas Jones  
 John Kork  
 John Kelley  
 David Livingston  
 Loran Lewis  
 Joel Leonard  
 Asa R. Loveland  
 Francis Lemore  
 Jno. Miltmore  
 Jno. Miltmore, Jr.

Ebenezer Moon  
 Reuben Martin  
 Arthur McMillen  
 Jas. McMillen  
 Allen McLaughlin  
 John McLaughlin  
 Jno. McLaughlin, Jr.  
 Thomas Miltmore  
 Samuel Moore  
 Peter Osborn  
 William Pease  
 John Perow  
 Henry Pierce  
 William Patterson  
 Sam'l H. Payne  
 Battice Pero  
 Periker Polite  
 Ebenezer Plant  
 Jonathan Rich  
 Sam'l Rich  
 David Rich  
 Jonathan Rich, Jr.  
 William Rich  
 William Ryan  
 Samuel Rogers  
 Gerardus Richmond  
 Seth F. Richardson  
 Ezra Russell  
 Gilbert Rouse  
 William Shepard  
 Benj. Shepard  
 Jas. B. Spencer  
 Zelah Sinclair  
 Seymour Saxton  
 Joseph Switzer  
 Herman Sperry  
 Noble Saxton  
 Thomas Suttan  
 Alanson Saxton  
 Ebenezer Saxton  
 William Shipman  
 Joseph Spencer  
 Reuben D. Tucker  
 Wm. Turner  
 Jno. Taylor  
 Silas Ware  
 Silas Weaver  
 John Wheeler  
 Sam'l Wheaton

## CAVALRY

Equipped and employed as guides, videttes and express; allowed 40 cents per day each for horses, arms, etc.

Sergeant — Jno. P. Andrews.

Privates — Seeley Wheeler, Ezekiel Blanchard.

## CAPTAIN DAVID ERWIN'S COMPANY.

Place of Service not Stated, but Doubtless on March to Plattsburgh; Term of Service September 11, 1814, to September 21, 1814; Pay to Privates \$2.93 Each.

Captain — David Erwin

Lieutenant — Joel Amsden.

Sergeants — Jehiel Barnum, Alex B. Erwin.

Corporals — Noble Saxton, Seth Blanchard.

## PRIVATES.

Elias Wibber  
Allen McLaughlin  
Jonathan Atwater  
Gates Hoyt  
Nathan Stowers  
Joseph Ervin

Jonathan Bawin  
Elish Allen  
William Thompson  
Nathan Beamān  
John Vernal

## CAVALRY

Seeley Wheeler  
Richard Gates

Alpheus Exworth

## CAPTAIN MOSES EGGLESTON'S COMPANY.

Place of Service not Stated, but doubtless on March to Plattsburgh; Term of Service September 11, 1814, to September 20, 1814; Pay of Privates \$2.66 Each.

Captain — Moses Eggleston.

Lieutenant — Israel Thayer.

Ensign — Solomon Smith.

Sergeants — Augustus Douglass, Ephraim Perry, Jr., Simon Hawks, Orra Day.

Corporals — Lincoln Witherall, Justin Day, Jr.

Fifer — Samuel Hollembeck.

## PRIVATES.

Alvin Allen  
Abraham Atwater  
Charles Blake  
Zebulon Baxter  
Samuel Beeman  
Warren Bottsford  
Jehiel Barnum, Jr.  
Nathaniel Crain  
Nathan G. Douglass  
Rudolphus Douglass  
Nathaniel Day  
John Day  
Ira W. Doud  
Squire M. Hosmer  
Ottis G. Hosmer.

Jacob Phillips  
Robert Peircy  
Samuel Peircy  
Garret Peircy  
David Peircy  
Levi F. Pond  
Obed Rust  
Samuel Stoughton  
James B. Shepard  
Judathan Sherman  
Harden H. Soal  
Daniel Vosburgh  
Rodney Wing  
Peter Wright